STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

September 9, 2005

Interim Committees of Missouri General Assembly

The Missouri Library Association (MLA) Legislative Committee chaired by Margaret Conroy and the State Library are following the work of two interim legislative committees. The Joint Committee on Tax Policy, chaired by Representative Sutherland, intends a comprehensive review of all Missouri tax policy.

I attended the first meeting of the Committee, which heard testimony on tax credits and the role of the State Tax Commission. Barbara Reading attended the second meeting of the Committee, at which Carl Sandstedt, Director of the St. Charles City-County Library District testified as an individual. Liz Walker, trustee of the Kirkwood Public Library gave a concise statement about the dependence of library districts on the property tax and how libraries complied with the requirements to roll back taxes with reassessments.

The Senate Interim Committee on Tax Increment Financing held a hearing on August 23. Its purpose is to study current statutes and recently proposed legislation, explore and clarify the definitions and requirements within existing state documents, evaluate the current procedures with specific attention on the impact of TIFs on local communities and municipal debts, to examine the potential for abuse, and assess the current implementation of TIFs in relation to the original intent of the legislation. Carl Sandstedt also testified at this Committee.

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) held in Oslo, Norway

In mid-August I attended the annual meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), an organization representing libraries and library interests from all over the world. I represent the United States on the Standing Committee for Research and Library Services to Parliaments and Legislatures.

The Storting, the Norwegian Parliament, hosted three days of pre-conferences. It was an opportunity to learn the use of information and research services within a modified unicameral parliament. We heard from members of parliaments, library and research directors for the Nordic countries, and how the various parliaments of Europe are using information technology to inform the public and facilitate work.

The broader conference program was extensive and had many interesting topics; including Malaysia's efforts to establish a public library system in rural areas and the New South Wales (Australia) legal efforts which increased librarians salaries by over 35%.

Some European software appears able to move us beyond Google searching. Three European parliaments are using software called *Autonomy* to address the content of legacy systems and provide personalized information searching results to clients. *Autonomy* appears able to address searching within the "deep" web and also to produce results in better form.

The King attended the opening session - - as a member of the audience rather than on stage.

I also had the delight of hearing the novelist Lynn Ullman, speak on memory. Her three novels are only now becoming known in the United States. She is a powerful writer and beginning to win international prizes. I participate in IFLA activities at my own expense.

Missouri Census Data Center Training

Librarians, planners, and researchers attended training on accessing census data at the University of Missouri - Columbia on July 25. Representatives from the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA), the Geographic Resources Center (GRC) and the Nebraska Data Center presented the program. We implemented an exchange program this year with the Nebraska Data Center; Jerry Deichert, Director of Nebraska Data Center, presented at our annual event and we presented at their conference in August.

Volunteer Recording Booth

Say How?

Ray Hagen, Compiler of *Say How?* will visit Wolfner Library this fall to add audio to the on-line edition of this publication. Mr. Hagen will use Wolfner's digital recording booth to create the audio and, with the help of the Secretary of State's IT department, will add the mp3 files to the on-line document. It will act much like the on-line Merriam-Webster dictionary. This project is funded by the Friends of Wolfner Library.

Say How? was born at the Library of Congress Talking Books for the Blind Recording Studio, where pronunciation of words and names borders on obsession. We found one area was conspicuously missing from all of the many dictionaries and pronunciation guides – names of lesser known and contemporary public figures. In print, a name must be spelled correctly. This is the oral/aural equivalent.

National Centenarian Day

Wolfner Library will induct 10 readers into the 10^2 Talking-Book Club at the St. Louis Public Library Wednesday, 10:00 am, September 22, 2005. The club was created by the National Library Service (NLS) to recognize the accomplishments of Talking-Book readers 100 years of age and older. A ceremony with Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and Carolyn Sung, Chief of the Network Division of NLS, will present a certificate, pin and letter of congratulations to 103-year-old Katharine Chambers of St. Louis as Missouri's first inductee into the 10^2 Talking-Book Club.

The other nine members of the club are:
- Vera Cusey, 101 of Raytown
- Effie "Rene" Johnson, 101, of Osage Beach
- Margaret Dodge, 101, Salisbury
- Helen May, 100, of Rolla
- Mabell L. McGuire, 100, of Freeburg
- Audrey R. Myers, 100, of Kansas City
- Alma M. Sego, 100. of Smithville

- Leona M Akers, 100, of Chillicothe
- Mr. Philips D. Covell, 100 of Gladstone

Each will be mailed a letter, pin and certificate of membership.

State Publications Access Program

The State Publications Access Program team has worked hard in the last month to streamline the workflow to increase productivity in getting state publications into the OCLC digital archive.

A letter was sent by Secretary Carnahan to the director of each state agency to request the appointment of a designee or designees to provide publications for the program.   Contact will begin with the designees to:

- explain the program in greater details,
- determine the publications each agency considers key to their operation,
- explain the process by which the agencies will submit a single electronic file to the State Library, and
- explain the importance of submitting new publications in a timely manner.

In the meantime, we harvest publications from the agencies' web sites and will again look at harvesting the older editions of some key publications.

We continue to work with the IT Division on the development of a method for submission of the single electronic file for each publication. This will simplify our processes greatly since we will have to harvest many fewer publications from the agencies' web sites.

The proposed administrative rule has been finalized and sent to the SOS legal counsel for review.

WebBridge

The Secretary of State's Office funded the addition of the WebBridge module from Innovative Interfaces to the Arthur cluster catalog.

Jason Stirnaman is heading the project to implement this module which will assist users of the catalog in searching all sources of information in the library. Searches will retrieve other resources where information needed can be located i.e. a particular information database. The link will then execute the search in that database. This tool will expose more resources to the clientele who are more likely to start with the library's online catalog.

Each member of the Arthur Cluster has the option to use this module. It appears all wish to use it. Jason has developed an implantation plan which will require information from the individual libraries. The existing Arthur committees will work on the various components of the module and make recommendations for the decisions which need to be made.

Gates Staying Connected Grant

Seventy-one libraries in Missouri will soon have updated computer equipment through the Missouri State Library, the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

To be eligible for the program, libraries had to either qualify for state aid, equalization, or have been identified by the Gates Foundation as being in an area of persistent poverty. Libraries are also required to match 25% of the cost of the grant using local funds and participate in technology training to help them maintain the new equipment.

$792,224 will be invested in Missouri public libraries for 658 new computers and technical support: $213,516 from the Gates Foundation, $380,652 in LSTA funding from the State Library, and $198,056 in local matching funds.

Remaining Gates Foundation grant funds are being used for technology training and technical support programs.

Statewide Summer Library Program

Most public library summer programs have ended or are winding down, and libraries are submitting summer library program evaluations. Many have provided very thorough responses to the evaluation question that asked about their efforts to cooperate with schools and other entities. It appears many more schools and public libraries have worked together to make sure youth are reading during the summer.

Several public libraries reported schools bringing summer school students to the library weekly for summer programs and book checkouts. Other libraries reported cooperative efforts to allow summer school students to register for the public library summer program, even though they were unable to visit the public library. Upon completing the reading requirement using school library books, the students received the same incentives as those youth who read books from the public library. One public library that hired a puppeteer to present a show at the public library provided additional funding so the show could be repeated at the school for the summer school students.

The Missouri Summer Library Program Web site includes an online evaluation for the 2005 Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds public services announcement (PSA). The State Library provided a copy of the PSA to every public library and to school libraries that requested a copy. Many respondents have described creative uses for the PSA, including one that made a copy for the local movie theatre where the PSA was aired prior to each movie showing.

Training and Continuing Education

2005 Summer Institute

The 2005 Library Skills Summer Institute was held August 2-5 in Columbia, Missouri. Sixty-nine people attended.

Two advanced track courses and one basic track course were presented. The basic track was a collection of courses presenting an overview of public library services in Missouri. The advanced track courses were Library Services for Children taught by Pamela Barron from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro; and Library Classification presented by Erlene Dudley from William Woods University.

Executive Deputy Secretary of State Mark Reading gave the formal welcome to the Institute attendees at the Welcome Dinner Tuesday evening. Evaluation responses and comments regarding the Summer Institute have been very favorable.

Train the Trainer Seminar

The State Library held a three-day training seminar for library staff who provide computer training. This was a three-day course being taught at MOREnet. It was funded through the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. The presenter, Pamela Brady, gave the 18 library staff attending tools, tips and resource information to assist them in becoming effective trainers.

Online Tutorials

The State Library has partnered with the University of North Texas to offer two online tutorials this fall. Copyright Basics and Managing Difficult Patrons require approximately two hours and may be completed according to the pace and schedule of each user. Both tutorials involve reading online material, reviewing video or sound clips, and completing self-assessments. We purchased access for 35 staff members from local libraries to participate in each class. Both were full within five days. We anticipate scheduling future online tutorials if we receive positive responses from the first round of classes.

Missouri State Library Continuing Education Committee

The Missouri State Library Continuing Education Committee met on June 16.   The committee discussed recommendations for making the State Library online CE Calendar more effective and efficient. They also discussed the best use of resources to promote the types of library training available throughout Missouri. The committee agreed the statewide training providers attending the Missouri Library Association conference in October will receive a sign for their exhibits to identify their participation in the State CE Committee and promote the committee.

Center for the Book

The Missouri Center for the Book and the State Library will begin publicizing the 2006 Letters about Literature contest in early September. Schools and libraries across the state will receive entry forms and information about the contest, which encourages students in grades 4-12 to read a book and write a letter to the author.

The Center for the Book will host several events in the next few months in St. Louis and Kansas City. A genre forum featuring Missouri mystery writers is scheduled for September 17 at the Schlafly branch of the St. Louis Public Library. In October, the Center will help sponsor the St. Louis Book Festival. Planning for a poetry slam at the Kansas City Public Library and another Missouri author event in St. Louis are underway.

Library development consultant Holly Dentner and two Center board members will represent Missouri at the National Book Festival in Washington DC, scheduled for September 24, 2005.

Missouri State Library Scholarship Program

The Missouri State Library Scholarships have been awarded for the fall 2005 semester.   We received 17 applications and awarded four new scholarships. One student graduated in May and four more graduated with the completion of summer classes. With the four new recipients, we will be supporting 25 students with scholarships this fall. Applications for the Winter/Spring 2006 Semester will be accepted from September 1 – October 1, 2005.

Literacy Initiatives

Learning Express Library

The State Library offered grant funding for software that will prepare patrons for academic or professional exams by providing an on-line test environment. The grant is being offered to Missouri public libraries for both new and renewal grants. The program was first offered to a pilot group of applicants in 2003. The first year successful applicants receive 100% funding while each renewal application requires a local match.

Kentucky Educational Television series, GED Connection and Workplace Essentials

These materials are available to all types of libraries in Missouri: public, academic, and high school libraries. Libraries may apply to receive sets of these materials to add to their collections at no cost, and without committing to accompanying library programs. GED Connection offers 39 videotapes and three workbooks geared for adults who are studying for the GED exam. Workplace Essential Skills contains 25 videotapes and four workbooks that teach students about workplace readiness skills, such as reading, math, communication, and problem solving in the workplace, plus resume preparation and job seeking skills. There is no deadline date for the application for these materials.

The following LSTA grants totaling $438,640 were awarded in July 2005- June 2006 to begin July 1, 2005.

Computer Training Laboratory

Jefferson County-Windsor Branch	$ 13,380
McDonald County Library	$ 43,100
Texas County Library	$ 48,680

Digital Imaging

McDonald County Library-"Jesse James brings Hollywood to the Ozarks"	$ 13,817
Washington University-"Object Virtual Reality for Artifacts: a Pilot Study"	$ 26,615
SMSU Duane G. Meyer Library-"Shannon County Film Project"	$ 67,690
State Historical Society-"Missouri Newspaper Index Digitization"	$106,425

Retrospective Conversion

Oregon County Library	$ 48,556
UMC Law Library	$ 19,308

After School Connections

St. Louis Public Library: Kids on Their Own	$ 49,569

GED Online Study Groups

Mountain View Public Library	$ 1,500